

Appl. No.: 10/773,828
Amtd. Dated: 21 October 2006
Reply to Office Action mailed 07/262/06

Amendments to the Claims

Please amend and cancel claims as indicated below. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A wine barrel comprising:

a rigid external barrel frame having upper and lower substantially identical rigid ring ends and a plurality of substantially straight and rigid longitudinal connecting means—for connecting said rigid ends;

a plurality of wooden side panels fitted secured to said connecting means and extending circumferentially into the inside area of within said frame;

a plurality of said upper and lower rigid ends include wooden end panels butted against the ends of said wooden side panels thereby providing mounted between said rigid ends and said connecting means whereby upon assembly of said frame, said side panels, and said end panels, there is provided a substantially leak-proof barrel having a substantially wooden interior surface.

2. (currently amended) The wine barrel of claim 1 wherein said upper and lower ring ends have a plurality of holes to receive said connecting means, the position and number of said holes and the number of said connecting means and said side panels predetermined to establish the number of barrel sides, sufficient strength to support external stacking loads and internal liquid pressure.

3. (currently amended) The wine barrel of claim 2 wherein during assembly said wooden side panels press against each other and against said connecting means resulting in outward pressure against said connecting means thereby to create said leak-proof barrel —wherein said connecting means are straight multisided rods of material non-reactive to wine.

4. (currently amended) The wine barrel of claim 3 + wherein said connecting means are metal members and positioned in said holes of said rigid ring ends to withstand said outward pressure. ~~straight circular tubes of material non-reactive to wine.~~

5. (currently amended) The wine barrel of claim assembly of claim 1 wherein said side panels and ~~said end panels~~ are generally planar and replaceable and include reversibility including reversible replacement to present the unused side to the interior of said barrel.

6. (currently amended) The wine barrel of claim 4 + wherein said rigid ends are generally circular rings and said frame is of metal and is reusable for replacement and ~~of~~ said side panels and said end panels.

7. (currently amended) The wine barrel of claim 4 + wherein said rigid ends have a multisided configuration and said frame is of metal and is reusable for replacement of said side panels and said end panels.

8. (currently amended) The wine barrel of claim 5 wherein said side panels are complementary and at least one of said side panels is wedge shaped effecting side pressure to adjacent panels during assembly ~~to produce a liquid tight barrel.~~

9. (currently amended) The wine barrel of claim 5 wherein said connecting means are straight metal members with configuration taken from the group including multisided and circular. ~~side panels have grooves in the ends thereof for accepting gaskets positioned between said end panels and said side panels.~~

10. (currently amended) A wine barrel comprising:

a pair of substantially identical generally circular end rings having holes for receiving and locating and a plurality of longitudinal connecting members ~~means~~ connected to form a rigid frame;

said end rings including ~~including~~ means for capturing and interchangeably securing end wood panels;

said connecting means including ~~including~~ means for interchangeably capturing and securing side wood panels circumferentially of said frame;

assembly of said rings including said end panels wherein pressure is applied to the ends of said side wood panels, and said connecting means including said side wood panels provides a liquid tight container with an all a substantially wooden interior; and

wherein ~~said end panels and said~~ side panels are substantially planar and selectively replaceable within the interior of said rigid frame.

11. (currently amended) The wine barrel of claim 10 wherein said side panels are complementary and at least one of said side panels is wedge shaped providing side pressure to adjacent panels ~~during installation~~ to effect a liquid tight barrel.

12. (previously presented) The wine barrel of claim assembly of claim 10 wherein said side and end panels are replaceable including reversible replacement to present the unused side to the interior of said barrel.

13. (previously presented) The wine barrel of claim 10 including gasket means interposed between said end wood panels and said side panels.

14. (currently amended) The wine barrel of claim 10 + wherein said connecting means are straight metal members. ~~multisided rods of material non-reactive to wine~~.

15. (currently amended) The wine barrel of claim 10 + wherein the configuration of said connecting means is taken from the group including multisided and circular. ~~are straight circular tubes of material non-reactive to wine~~.

16. (currently amended) A wine barrel comprising:

a pair of generally ring-like ends and a plurality of longitudinally extending connecting means for assembling said ends to form a rigid reusable frame;

planar wooden side panels circumferentially interposed between said connecting means in the inside area of said frame;

planar wooden end panels positioned integral of ~~under~~ said ring-like ends and butted against the ends of said wooden side panels;

gasket means positioned between said end panels and said side panels; and

hardware means for assembling said frame, said end panels, said gasket, and said side panels to form a substantially liquid tight barrel.

17. (currently amended) The wine barrel of claim 16 wherein said connecting means are straight metal members with configuration taken from the group including multisided and circular, multisided rods of material non-reactive to wine.

18. (currently amended) The wine barrel of claim 16 wherein upon assembly said wooden side panels press against each other and against said connecting means resulting in outward pressure against said connecting means thereby to provide means for containing liquid pressure within said barrel. said connecting means are straight circular tubes of material non-reactive to wine.

19. (currently amended) The wine barrel of claim 16 wherein said side panels are complementary and at least one of said side panels is wedge shaped providing side pressure to adjacent panels during installation to effect a liquid tight barrel.

20. (currently amended) The wine barrel of claim assembly of claim 16 wherein said side panels and said end panels are replaceable in said reusable frame and can be reversibly replaced to present the unused side to the interior of said barrel.